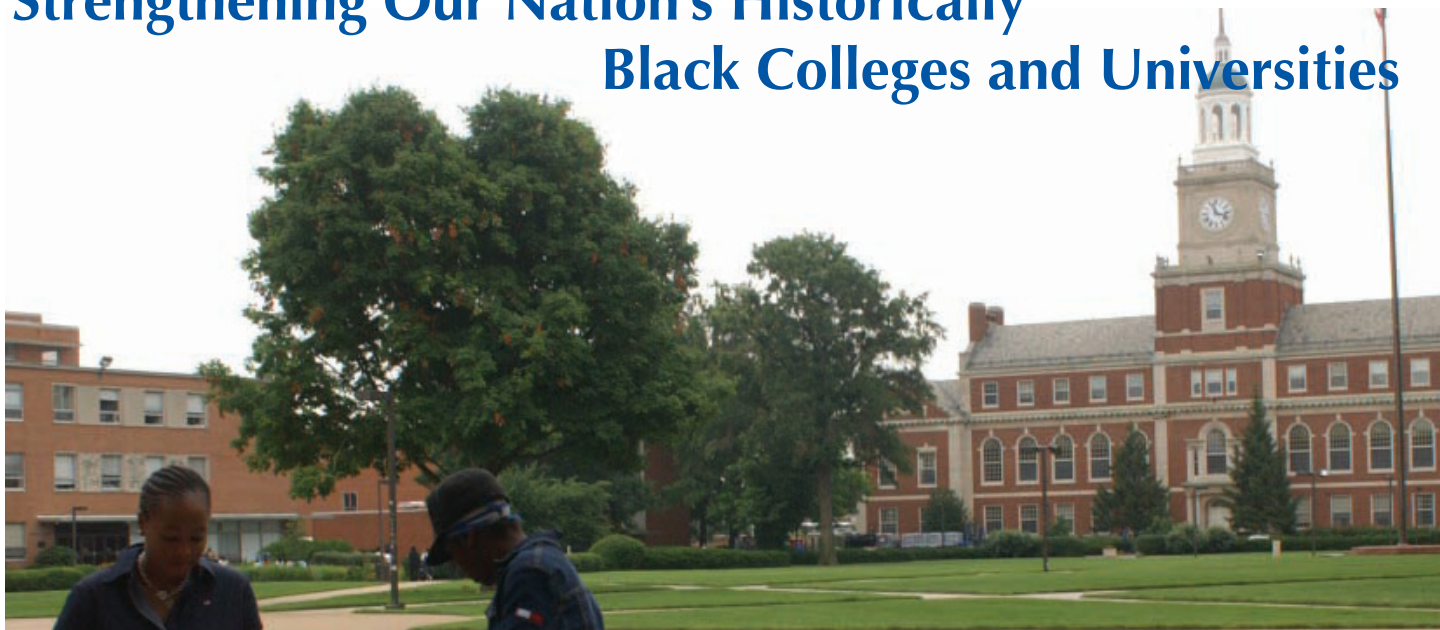


Strengthening Our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities



The nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) hold a 130-year record of significantly increasing the percentage of black Americans who are able to attend college, effectively creating cohorts of black leadership, and helping achieve economic mobilization of African-American communities. HBCUs play the critical role of awarding more than 19 percent of bachelor's degrees earned by African-Americans; graduating 40 percent or more of all African-Americans who receive degrees in physics, chemistry, astronomy, environmental sciences, mathematics and biology; and producing nearly 50 percent of the African-American public school teaching force. Many HBCUs specialize in teaching students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Ensuring their continued success will play an important part in reaching the president's goal of becoming first in the world in college completion.

HBCUs cannot simply survive. They have to thrive. The historical importance of these schools cannot be overstated. Their relevance today is as great as at any time in the past.

**—Secretary of Education
Arne Duncan**

Increasing College Access and Affordability for Students

Seventy-percent of students who attend HBCUs are classified as low income and half of the HBCU student population receives Pell Grants, compared to 27 percent of students at other institutions. The president's proposed FY 2010 budget calls for a historic investment to make college more affordable and accessible and to help more students succeed once they get there. These investments will make a real difference for students who attend HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

Together, the recently enacted *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* and the FY 2010 budget invest nearly \$200 billion in Pell Grants, new college tax credits and other initiatives.

Pell Grants

- The FY 2010 budget proposal would make funding for the Pell Grant program mandatory and ensure that grant amounts keep pace with inflation.
- In Academic Year (AY) 2009-10, there will be an estimated 185,300 Pell recipients at HBCUs, receiving approximately \$718,239,000 to pay for tuition.
- In AY 2010-11, under the president's budget request, there would be an estimated 198,000 recipients receiving approximately \$798,981,000 in Pell funds, an increase of more than \$80 million for HBCU students and the institutions they attend.

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Tax Credits

- ARRA is also providing nearly \$14 billion in tuition tax credits for middle-class families, raising the credit from \$1,800 to \$2,500.

Other Initiatives

- A restructure and expansion of the Federal Perkins Loan Program. The revamped Perkins program

would provide \$6 billion in loans every year, a significant increase from the current \$1 billion in funding.

- A five-year \$2.5 billion College Access and Completion Fund that would support efforts to increase college enrollment and completion rates for low-income students, including those attending HBCUs.

Strengthening Institutions

In a budget in which the vast majority of Education Department programs would receive no new funding at all, the proposed FY 2010 budget increases funding for the following key initiatives that serve HBCUs directly.

Discretionary Funding

In the proposed FY 2010 budget, discretionary funding for HBCUs and Historically Black Graduate Institutions (HBGIs) increases 5 percent—more than twice the rate of inflation—and first-time discretionary funding is requested for Predominately Black Institutions.

Discretionary Funding for Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Historically Black Graduate Institutions: FY 2005–10

Fiscal Year	Appropriations			Annual Difference
	HBCUs	HBGIs	Total	
2005	\$238,576,000	\$58,032,000	\$296,608,000	—
2006	\$238,095,000	\$57,915,000	\$296,010,000	- 0.20%
2007	\$238,095,000	\$57,915,000	\$296,010,000	0.0%
2008	\$238,094,530	\$56,903,225	\$294,997,775	- 0.34%
2009	\$238,095,000	\$58,500,000	\$296,595,000	0.54%
2010 (proposed)	\$250,000,000	\$61,425,000	\$311,425,000	5.00%

— Data not reported.

Source: FY 2010 Budget Request for the Department of Education (<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/performance.html>); FY 2009 Education Budget (<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget09/09action.pdf>); and historical tables (<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/Archives/archive.html>). (URLs last accessed June 8, 2009.)

Capital Financing Program

The FY 2010 budget would almost double the HBCU Capital Financing Program—from \$10.4 million to \$20.6 million. The requested amount would enable \$178.2 million in new loans in FY 2010. This program provides key resources for HBCUs to repair, modernize and renovate their facilities.

Creating a Student Pipeline

Programs such as GEAR UP and TRIO have succeeded for many years in improving college preparation, enrollment, retention and graduation rates for disadvantaged and first-generation college students. Funding for these programs of critical importance to HBCUs remains level in the FY 2010 budget proposal.

Supporting the Work of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The administration will issue an executive order that reflects President Obama's commitment to ensuring that HBCUs have the opportunity to fully and successfully participate in the programs of the federal government.